Highlights from the results of the 2000 Hunter Effort Survey

INTRODUCTION

Since 1979 the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources (now Environment) has sent a mandatory mail-out questionnaire to all licenced, resident hunters to report their harvest. These questionnaires included questions about harvest effort, or how many days hunters spent hunting each species and in which area.

In an attempt to improve the response rate the Department has tried, over the years, to simplify the questionnaire. Eventually, in 1995, all questions relating to the hunting effort were dropped. In their place, the Department proposed to send special surveys focussing on hunting effort every 3 to 5 years.

Hunting effort can be a valuable piece of information for wildlife managers. It can identify:

- heavily harvested areas,
- which species are most important for Yukon hunters, and
- in some circumstances, it can be used to determine the health of certain wildlife populations.

In 2000, the Department of Renewable Resources (now the Department of Environment) engaged the Yukon Bureau of Statistics to conduct a hunter effort survey. The survey was sent to 3,584 licensed Yukon hunters.

The survey was designed to get Yukon hunters to describe:

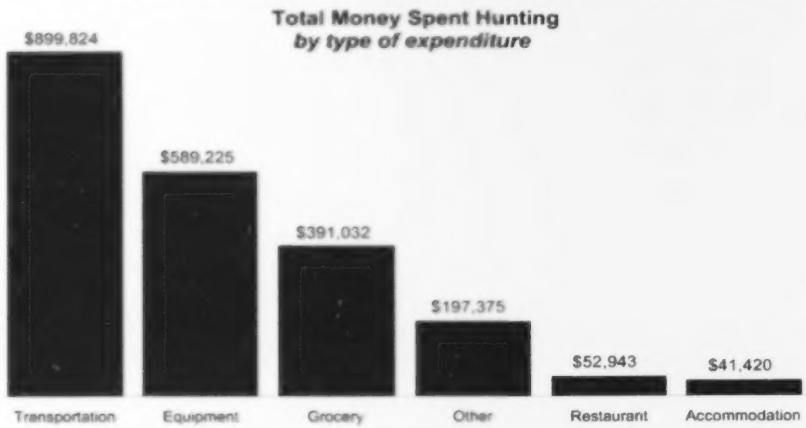
- how much money they spent hunting in 2000. This is useful in evaluating the economic importance of hunting in the Yukon Territory;
- what, where, when and how they hunted in 2000; and
- the way they generally hunt, which species is most important to them and how long they have been hunting in the Yukon.

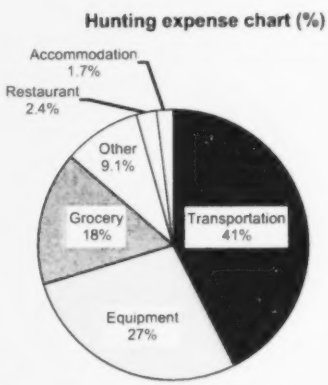
This report presents a summary of the information received from 1,960 respondents representing over 3,000 individual hunting trips.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF HUNTING

- During the 2000 hunting season, hunters reported spending approximately **$2.2 million** to go hunting. This amount represents about **$610** per Yukon hunter.

- Transportation is the principal expense for most Yukon hunters and represents **41%** of the expenses, whereas accommodation and restaurant are the least important expense items.





"Other" includes licenses, tags, permit application fees, butchering, grinding and wrapping of meat, taxidermy, childcare, horse feed.

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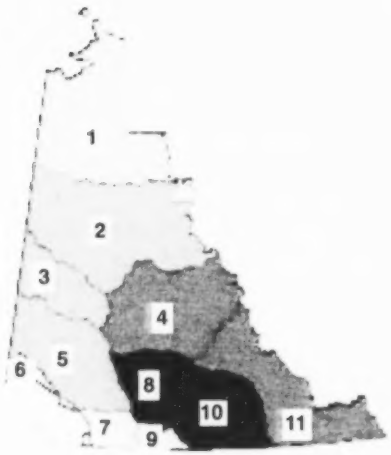
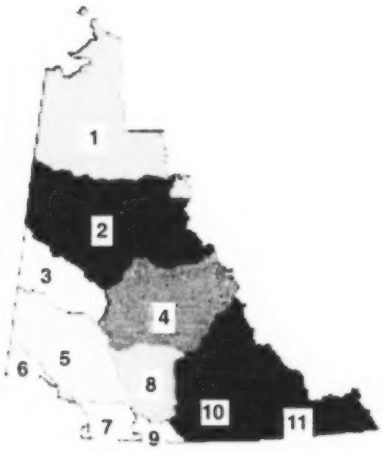
THE 2000 HUNTING SEASON - BIG GAME SUMMARY

MOOSE

- In total, Yukoners hunted moose for 15,095 days.
- 26% of the moose-hunting trips were successful.
- Moose hunters spent most of their time hunting in Zones 8 and 10.
- 93% of successful moose hunters shared the meat with members of their party.





CARIBOU

- In total, Yukoners hunted caribou for 3,845 days.
- 40% of the caribou-hunting trips were successful.
- Caribou hunters spent most of their time hunting in Zones 2, 10 and 11.
- 80% of successful caribou hunters shared the meat with members of their party.

SHEEP

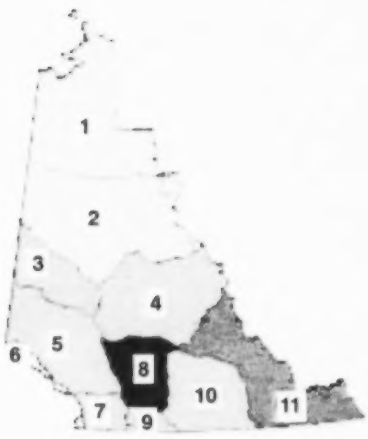
- In total, Yukoners hunted sheep for 1,639 days.
- 16% of the sheep-hunting trips were successful.
- Sheep hunters spent most of their time hunting in Zone 7.
- 90% of successful sheep hunters shared the meat with members of their party.

Readers please note that the darker the shading of a zone the more hunting that occurred there.

THE 2000 HUNTING SEASON - BIG GAME SUMMARY

GOAT

- In total, Yukoners hunted goat for 218 days.
- None of the respondents reported that their specific goat-hunting trips were successful.
- Only Zones 7 and 11 are open (Zone 7 is permit only), and of those two zones goat hunters spent most of their time hunting in Zone 7.



GRIZZLY BEAR

- In total, Yukoners hunted grizzly bear for 725 days.
- 10% of the grizzly-hunting trips were successful.
- Grizzly bear hunters spent most of their time hunting in Zone 8.

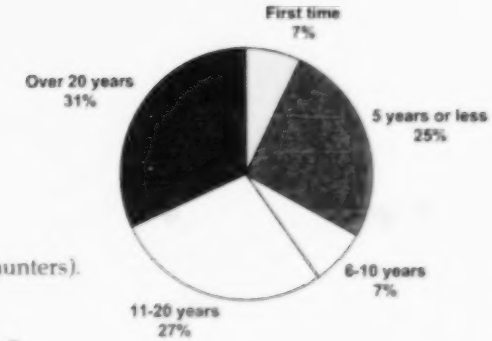
BLACK BEAR

- In total, Yukoners hunted black bear for 1,003 days.
- 26% of the black bear-hunting trips were successful.
- Black bear hunters spent most of their time hunting in Zone 10.

Readers please note that the darker the shading of a zone the more hunting that occurred there.

HUNTER PROFILE

1.1 How many years have hunters been hunting in the Yukon?



- The average number of years hunting is 16.

1.2 What species do hunters usually hunt?

- Moose is the species most hunted by Yukoners (90% of hunters).
- Caribou is hunted by 60% of hunters.

1.3 Which species is most important to Yukon hunters?

- 72% of hunters consider moose the most important species.
- 10% of hunters consider caribou the most important species.

1.4 Often during a hunting trip, animals that are not the primary target are shot. Which species are generally hunted under these circumstances?

- Game birds are the species most often shot incidentally.
- Caribou, small game and moose are also frequently shot by hunters who were after a different species.

1.5 How do Yukon hunters generally hunt?

- Although many hunters reported that their method of hunting depended upon the species they were after, about two-thirds of Yukon hunters generally use a boat to hunt.
- Hiking and driving were hunters' second and third preferred methods.

1.6 Which hunting method did hunters find to be most successful, in their experience?

- Yukon hunters reported that the most successful hunting method was generally hunting by boat.
- Hiking is also considered a very successful method.

1.7 Some people carry a rifle in their vehicle throughout the hunting season in the event the opportunity arises to kill an animal. How many Yukon hunters hunt this way?

- On average, 17% of Yukon hunters carry a rifle in their vehicle during the hunting season in the event they see an animal.
- In general, 25% of the hunters who carry a rifle in their vehicle throughout the hunting season are successful at shooting an animal.
- Moose is the species most often shot under these circumstances.

1.8 How many Yukon hunters generally hunt for a trophy moose or trophy caribou?

- In general, 3% of the moose hunters hunt for a trophy moose.
- 6% of the caribou hunters hunt for a trophy caribou.

1.9 Do Yukon hunters generally hunt with a partner(s)?

- 86% of Yukon hunters reported hunting with a partner(s).

1.10 Do hunters hunting with a partner(s) intend to share an animal?

- 83% of Yukon hunters who hunt with a partner(s) intend to share one animal.

Yukon
Environment

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